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was entirely absent, because the fact of its becoming inclosed in crystals depends so much on their nature. At the same time the occurrence of fluid-cavities containing what seems to be merely liquid carbonic acid is scarcely reconcilable with the presence of more than a very little water in either a liquid or gaseous form. We may here say that we do not agree with those authors who maintain that the curved or irregular form of the fluid-cavities is proof of the minerals having been in a soft state, since analogous facts are seen in the case of crystals deposited from solution.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE VII.

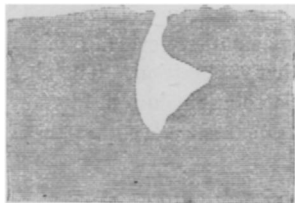
- Figs 1. & 2. Fluid-cavities in sapphire; magnified 20 linear.  
 Fig. 3. Fluid-cavity in sapphire, partially divided by plates of sapphire; mag. 50.  
 Fig. 4. Branched fluid-cavity in sapphire; mag. 50.  
 Fig. 5. Crystal of spinel? inclosed in ruby; mag. 50.  
 Fig. 6. Cavity in aquamarina, with two fluids; mag. 150.  
 Fig. 7. Cavity in ruby spinel; mag. 100.  
 Fig. 8. Fluid-cavity in emerald, with soluble crystals; mag. 200.  
 Fig. 9. Crystal inclosed in diamond, surrounded by a black cross, as seen with polarized light; mag. 100.  
 Fig. 10. Crystal inclosed in diamond, with a crack proceeding from it; mag. 100.  
 Fig. 11. Crystal inclosed in ruby, surrounded by a black cross, seen by polarized light; mag. 75.  
 Figs. 12 & 13. Crystals in ruby spinel, surrounded by various cracks; mag. 50.

#### II. "Note on a Method of viewing the Solar Prominences without an Eclipse." By WILLIAM HUGGINS, F.R.S. Received February 16, 1869.

Last Saturday, February 13, I succeeded in seeing a solar prominence so as to distinguish its form. A spectroscope was used; a narrow slit was inserted after the train of prisms before the object-glass of the little telescope. This slit limited the light entering the telescope to that of the refrangibility of the part of the spectrum immediately about the bright line coincident with C.

The slit of the spectroscope was then widened sufficiently to admit the form of the prominence to be seen. The spectrum then became so impure that the prominence could not be distinguished.

A great part of the light of the refrangibilities removed far from that of C was then absorbed by a piece of deep ruby glass. The prominence was then distinctly perceived, something of this form.



A more detailed account is not now given, as I think I shall be able to modify the method so as to make the outline of these objects more easily visible.

*February 25, 1869.*

Capt. RICHARDS, R.N., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following communications were read :—

- I. “ Additional Observations of Southern Nebulae.” In a Letter to Professor STOKES, Sec. R.S., by Lieut. J. HERSCHEL, R.E. Communicated by Prof. STOKES. Received January 4, 1869.

Bangalore, Dec. 1, 1868.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to subjoin a few additions to my former list of Southern Nebulae spectroscopically examined.

The observations extend from the 24th October to the 20th November.

I will first enumerate those of which no trace of a spectrum of any kind has been detected, and which, I can with confidence state, have no other than a continuous spectrum. I am enabled to do this for the following reason—that even when the jaws of the slit were entirely removed, so as to command a perfectly free field of view (in which stellar spectra were frequently recognized), no light from these objects was visible. That no doubt might remain as to the justice of this conclusion, three faint planetary nebulae were looked at in the same way, and were more or less easily recognized as spots of light in the spectroscopic field. It is much to be regretted that I did not long ago make the experiment; had I done so I should unquestionably have saved myself many tedious hours lost in vain searching. The following may safely be erased from a list of nebulae to be examined for evidence of a “linear” character :—

- Nos. 4757. “ Very bright; pretty small.”  
 27. “ Very bright; very large.”  
 67. “ Very bright; large.”  
 \*162. “ Globular cluster; bright; large.”  
 163. “ Very bright; large.”  
 339. “ Bright; large.”  
 \*342. “ Very bright; pretty large.”  
 361. “ Very bright; very large.”  
 369. “ Bright; pretty large.”  
 †544. “ Very bright; very large.”  
 604. “ Very bright; pretty large.”  
 †610. “ Very bright; large.”

\* These were not looked at in the way described above (without a slit), but are nevertheless included, because it is certain they have no visible spectrum.

† The same remark applies to these; they were *twice* examined.

The brackets denote that the objects are so near each other that one observation sufficed for both.